



# Nevada State Health Division TECHNICAL BULLETIN



**TOPIC: Influenza in Nevada:**

**TO: Health Care Providers/Residents of Nevada**

## INTRODUCTION

Influenza is an illness of the respiratory system caused by RNA viruses from one of three genera: *influenzavirus A*, *B*, and *C*, each containing a single species that has the potential to infect humans. It is primarily transmitted through respiratory contact with aerosolized particles from an infected individual, usually as a product of a cough or sneeze

## CASES

In Nevada, influenza is a state-wide reportable disease. Table 1 shows figures for the past five flu seasons and incomplete data for the 2008-2009 flu season.

**Table 1 – SEASONAL INFLUENZA CASES**

flu season <sup>1</sup>	cases	crude rate (per 100,000 <sup>2</sup> )
2003-2004	546	23.8
2004-2005	459	19.1
2005-2006	719	28.7
2006-2007	665	25.4
2007-2008	1,872 <sup>3</sup>	68.9
2008-2009 <sup>i</sup>	878	31.5

## INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED MORTALITY

Records of deaths occurring in Nevada are initiated by a variety of medical personnel, ranging from physicians and medical examiners to funeral directors and county coroners. The death certificates<sup>ii</sup> they complete allow for the cause, or causes, of death to be specified. Table 2 shows the number and rate.

**Table 2 – DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO INFLUENZA**

year	deaths	crude rate (per 100,000)
2003	7	0.3
2004	2	0.1
2005	2	0.1
2006	0	0.0
2007	0	0.0

## FLU VACCINATIONS

According to the Centers Disease Control and Prevention, GETTING VACCINATED EACH YEAR IS THE SINGLE BEST WAY TO PREVENT ILLNESS. Before each flu season, scientists and epidemiologists collaborate to predict which species and strains of influenza are likely to circulate in the general population and then develop vaccines against those identified.

- flu shot – an injectable vaccine formulated with inactivated viral particles
- nasal-spray flu vaccine (FluMist®) – an inhalable vaccine of live attenuated<sup>7</sup> influenza viruses

Table 3 shows the estimates of those vaccinated by each method and gives an overall total.

Table 3 – FLU VACCINATIONS

year	proportion <sup>8</sup> vaccinated		
	flu shot	flu spray	total
2004	27.5%	0.5%	<b>28.0%</b>
2005	21.8%	0.6%	<b>22.4%</b>
2006	26.5%	1.2%	<b>27.7%</b>
2007	30.4%	1.8%	<b>32.3%</b>
2008	25.4%	0.7%	<b>26.1%</b>

# GET VACCINATED!

For additional information, please visit the Health Division website at <http://www.health.nv.gov/> or contact Dr. Tracey Green, State Health Officer:

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<sup>1</sup> defined here as Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report weeks 40 through 26

<sup>2</sup> based on the population of the first year of the flu season

<sup>3</sup> preliminary data

<sup>4</sup> through 2009 April 28

<sup>5</sup> In late 2006, Nevada implemented the Electronic Death Registry System<sup>i</sup> for collecting digital mortality data via electronic death certificates.

<sup>6</sup> preliminary death data

<sup>7</sup> Though live, these viruses have been weakened and, therefore, do not cause severe symptoms; however, they may in some instances result in milder, flu-like side-effects.

<sup>8</sup> of adult respondents aged 18 years and older in Nevada

Approved by:  Dr. Tracey Green, State Health Officer